

AMERICAN LEAGUE IS DEVELOPING STARS, WHILE NATIONAL TEAMS ARE HOBBLING BY RULE

PLAYER-LIMIT RULE BLAMED FOR AMERICAN LEAGUE GAIN DURING LAST TWO SEASONS

Junior Circuit Is Developing Young Stars While National League Teams Are Forced to Pass Them Up Because of Joke Legislation

IT IS no secret among baseball men that the National League magnates are worried over the superiority the American League has shown in recent years. Scribes and fans throughout the country are of the opinion that Johnson's organization is stronger than the senior circuit. In seven years the National League has supplied one world's championship team, the Braves of 1914, and it is hard to convince the fans everywhere excepting in Boston that this victory was not more or less of a fluke. The Braves clearly outplayed the Mackmen and the victory was clean cut, but no one who has followed baseball will concede that Stallings' team was in the same class with the Athletics, if the Mackmen played the brand of ball shown throughout the championship season. This victory is the only one registered by the National League since 1909, when Pittsburgh defeated Detroit in a mediocre series that reminded one very much of the disappointing clash between the Dodgers and Red Sox this fall. In 1910 the Athletics started the baseball world by outclassing the famous Cub machine, and since that time the American League has won six out of seven world's series, and only one of the blue ribbon events was stubbornly contested or resulted in an exciting battle. When Mack was constructing his wonderful machine back in 1909 the other American League teams were fortunate enough to pick up a number of remarkable youngsters. This was made possible by the unusually large number of players the American League teams signed in an effort to overcome the superiority of the National League, which had everything its way in the world's series games and in general play during the three previous series.

No Necessity for Rule

IN THE first place the original idea of the rule was to curb extravagance and prevent teams from covering up valuable utility men. Therefore, there is no longer any use for the rule. The magnates have proved conclusively that there is little danger of their spending anything that is not necessary, while the National League really has not enough high-class players in the organization to construct eight powerful major league teams. At the present time there are many men holding down regular positions in the National League who would be extremely lucky to hold on as substitutes in the American League, and the player-limit rule is entirely to blame. It is out of the question to expect a second-division manager to rebuild his team and become a pennant contender in less than five years, unless he is favored by luck, with the ridiculous rule limiting the team to twenty-two signed players in effect. The greatest effect of the rule will be felt a few years from now, however, when the present crop of players is on the decline. Three stars are slipping back to every recruit coming up. Such a condition means that in time the caliber of the players will be even lower.

American League Developing Youngsters

ON THE other hand, the American League, with its twenty-five-player rule, allowing twenty-five eligible players and an unlimited number under contract, has been corraling the cream of the minor league talent, thanks to the generosity of the National Commission in the drafting. The American League has almost twenty young players sitting on the bench or just breaking into the league who are sure to be stars in a year or two, whereas the promising youngsters of the National League can be counted on one hand. The American League got all these players since the National League adopted the twenty-one-player limit, and before the coming season is over Johnson's circuit will be even further in front. Still the National League magnates insist upon arguing from a business standpoint. Any National League magnate can take a pencil and paper and show you the value of the rule, but the development of young players is an excellent investment and will bring its return. They will learn this too late.

Player-Limit Rule Responsible for Downfall

JUST before the National League magnates went into session two weeks ago one magnate admitted that he was very much perturbed because the scribes and fans seemed to take it for granted that the American League was superior to the senior organization. He declared that he was prepared to fight for the adoption of anything that would enable the National League to regain its lost prestige. Two days later this same magnate stood in the corridor of the Waldorf-Astoria lauding the new player-limit rule which enables the clubs to carry twenty-two players instead of twenty-one, but which also prohibits the signing of more than the player limit. Evidently somebody threw sand in the eyes of this magnate or he is easily influenced, as he was boasting the very rule that will prevent the National League from climbing to the level of the American League. As long as the National League adheres to a rule that prevents its teams from carrying as many players as the American League teams do the senior league will trail the junior organization.

National League Helping American

NATIONAL LEAGUE magnates use many arguments to justify the player-limit rule adopted at the recent meeting, but the answer probably is false pride or stubbornness. The twenty-one-player rule was adopted to curb extravagance and to prevent leading teams from covering up star players by keeping them on the bench when other teams in the league could use them as regulars. In some respects the rule worked out as the magnates expected, even though few teams respected the rule; but it proved a severe handicap and has been largely responsible for the decline of the league. While the twenty-one-player rule, with its flexible disability list, was a joke, the new twenty-two-player rule, which prohibits a team from signing more than this number of players, is even more of a farce. If the National League's purpose was to force the American League ahead and retard its own progress, it could not be accomplished better than by the passing of such a rule.

Mack Would Be Helpless in National League

WHERE would Connie Mack be today with a rule preventing him from signing more than twenty-two players, or if the twenty-one-player rule was in effect in the American League last season? It would be impossible for the wizard manager to rebuild a team with such a rule in effect, and yet there are two National League teams in poorer condition than the Athletics were at the close of the 1916 season, and they have not a leader who can get results out of young material like Mack does. The generous American League rule enabled Mack to try out more than 190 players in 1916, and we will reiterate the prediction made in these columns last winter that the Athletics will be in the pennant race in 1917. The team will not be quite so strong as Mack expected, because a few of his plans failed to materialize last season, but he will have a first-division team with a fighting chance for the flag, unless the opinion of veteran baseball men and managers of American League teams goes astray.

Minors Raising Salaries and Cutting Admission

THE minor leagues had a hard time surviving the war between Organized Ball and the Federal League, and many of them were forced to close their gates. In fact, the minor leagues were affected more than the major leagues and had not entirely recovered last season. Yet the minor leagues are taking a different method to get back on a solid foundation. Where the major leagues are raising the price of admission and cutting down salaries, the minor organizations plan to raise the salaries and cut down the price of admission. The Three-Eye League is trying a unique plan, and Hannibal, Mo., already has sold enough season tickets to assure the owners the most successful season in years. Perhaps if the major leagues catered more to the public they would fare better, as the parks are large enough to assure tremendous profit if the dyed-in-wool fans who used to attend every day, instead of only on Saturday, are weaned back. Raising the price is not going to win them back.

READING'S feat of shutting out Jasper without a field goal during the entire game was one of the rarest in years. The defensive play of the Kensington five was almost as good, heading tallying only two tosses from the floor. Altogether, it was a most unusual game, with only two field goals tallied. One of Reading's goals was a sensational toss from the center of the floor by Johnny Beckman, who kept his slate clean. Beckman is now the only player in the Eastern League who has scored from field in every game.

THE unexpected defeat of Jasper and Camden, coupled with Greystock's victory over De Neri, puts the Eastern League race in doubt. Prior to yesterday's game it was considered certain that Jasper and Camden had the race to themselves, but now the champion Greys loom up as a possibility. Greystock has just struck its 1915 stride and will be a mighty hard team for the leaders to beat.

FRED BRIG and Harry Franke, of Trenton, performed a notable feat yesterday when they blanked Camden's great forwards, Jack Adams and Roy Hiepel. Franke had a field day, tallying six goals from the floor, three of which were sensational, and he also succeeded in keeping Steele out of the play from start to finish. Judging by the way Trenton has been going since its lineup was changed, it is a fortunate thing for the leaders that the Jerseyman got off to a poor start.

AFTER FOOT, the youngster from Cleveland, again pleased a large crowd of local fans when he boxed the veteran Eddie O'Keefe a draw. The latter fought better than he has in a long time and he surely would have lost to the aggressive Foot. The Clevelander has a style that is pleasing and he should prove one of the best drawing cards of the year when local fans know him better.

FINE Johnny Mealey, straw-walker, last proved the best of the card at the Academy yesterday, with the local boy the winner by a shade. When this bout started the fans were inclined to local, but after three rounds had been completed they were inclined to admit Mealey's long range. It was all straw-walkers but Mealey earned the decision by making a sensational rally.

MOVIE OF A MAN WHOSE WIFE HAS GIVEN HIM A BOX OF CIGARS



WESTERNERS STILL SUPREME IN ROWING

Prowess of Duluth Oarsmen Should Act as an Impetus Upon Easterners

By JAMES PILKINGTON President National Association of Amateur Rowers. The victory of the western oarsmen in the National Regatta should prove an impetus for the sport and should help rowing in the East. This is the second consecutive year that eastern rowing men have bowed to the superior prowess of the West. The year past was one of the most successful and interesting the sport ever has enjoyed and several noteworthy performances were recorded.

There is no doubt that rowing has come to stay, and each succeeding year emphasizes this fact. The year of 1917 will equal if not surpass in interest any year in the past. The number of clubs in the National Association gradually has increased, and what is of more importance to the sport, the districts represented show a more general interest in competitive oarsmanship. Amateur rowing, as distinct from college rowing, is in a very satisfactory condition. Despite the unfavorable tidal problems, New York continues to show unabated interest in the sport, while the clubs in Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and Washington display no lack of interest in all matters pertaining to rowing.

What really is necessary to insure the future of rowing is for high schools and the smaller college institutions to make it a part of their athletic curriculum. It is the younger element that must fill the ranks of the rowing clubs, and once those youngsters become interested it will make it a part of their athletic curriculum. Schoolboy events should be added to all regatta programs in order to keep alive the interest of the schoolboys, and when this is done there is no fear as to the future. As a feeder for clubs the universities offer a splendid graduating field. The races held annually at New London, Poughkeepsie, Philadelphia and other rowing centers have a stimulating effect on the sport. The plucky contests by the western crews in the eastern collegiate regatta, still will make it a part of the more important regattas. The same applies to the club regattas as preparing competitions for the national regatta. From the reports received from various sections of the country, 1917 should be the banner year in rowing history.

REDS TO BE STRONG IN 1917 RACE, SAYS TENER

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Governor John K. Tener, president of the National League, does not believe there is so much difference between eastern and western clubs in his Cincinnati will prove strong next season under the management of Manager Mathewson, basing his belief on the strength of two infielders who play in any baseball staff, Tener declared in an interview here.

JOHNNY COULON TO TRY 'COME BACK' NEW YEAR'S

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Johnny Coulon is "coming back." The former baseball weight champion will box ten rounds or less, with Joe Wagner, local veteran, at the Pioneer Sporting Club on New Year's afternoon.

SUMMER BASEBALL IS HIT

Cornell Makes More Stringent Eligibility Rule for Students ITHACA, Dec. 26.—In an effort to curb the evil of summer baseball, Cornell has made a radical change in the eligibility rules for the coming year. Under the new rule, which goes into effect on January 1, permission from the university faculty committee on student affairs is required before a student may play in any baseball contest at which admission is charged to the field or stand, except as a member of the college team.

Christmas Basketball Scores

EASTERN LEAGUE—Greystock, 22; De Neri, 20; Reading, 21; Jasper, 18; Trenton, 20. AMERICAN LEAGUE—Fitzsch, 20; West Branch, 17; Sunnyside, 23; 24. INTER-CLUB GAME—West Hope, 25; Kensington, 22. CANADIAN—Canada High School, 41; Camden High, 20; Sunnyside, 18; Camden High, 20. BOSTONIAN—Boston Argyle High, 19; Boston High, 8 (vars); Park Ave High, 9; Boston High, 8 (vars). TOWER CITY—Frankville, 22; Tower City, 22. HARRISBURG—Harrisburg Independent, 21; Harrisburg, 21. TAMMARA—Tammara, 20; St. Elizabeth, 21 (vars); Tammara, 21. SOUTH DELAWARE—Columbia Suburban, 20; Columbia, 20. DELAWARE—Delaware, 20; Delaware, 20. DELAWARE—Delaware, 20; Delaware, 20.

THREE ALL-AMERICAN TEAMS SELECTED BY WALTER CAMP

As the elevens appear in Collier's, issue of December 30. FIRST ELEVEN: End, Boston, Minnesota; Tackle, West, Colorado; Guard, Black, Yale; Center, Pittsboro; Guard, Duluth, Harvard; End, Mealey, Yale; Halfback, Mealey, Yale; Fullback, Harter, Ohio State. SECOND ELEVEN: End, Pittsboro; Tackle, Harvard; Guard, Annaboli; Center, Princeton; Guard, West Point; End, West Point; Halfback, Notre Dame; Fullback, Yale. THIRD ELEVEN: End, Harvard; Tackle, Oregon; Guard, Rutgers; Center, Washington; Guard, Washington; End, Wash. & Lee; Halfback, Tennessee; Fullback, Vanderbilt; Guard, Georgetown; End, Georgetown; Fullback, Wash. & Jeff.

AGE LIMIT IN BASEBALL AND GOLF IS WELL ABOVE THAT OF FOOTBALL, TENNIS AND BOXING

By GRANTLAND RICE BASEBALL now has its stars above forty years of age, and golf has its champions around forty-five. But the age limit in these two sports runs well above that of football, tennis or boxing. Tennis has Brooks, Widing and Larned above thirty, but today there is no leading contender left around this age, or, rather, above it. Football has no place for a player above thirty, even if one could stand the smash of the game above that age. If there was any amount of professional football there undoubtedly would be stars from twenty-eight to thirty-three, but it is beyond reasoning to figure out a football star at forty. There have been a few fine rowers, with Fifty-five as a leading example, who have reached great heights after thirty-five, but these are few and farther still between. The boxer who travels beyond thirty is within a short space of the vanishing point. Even the Turfable Dane began to wane awfully at this point. There have been any number of baseball stars, a fairly healthy average, who were stars beyond thirty, and a number of others who were still stars beyond thirty-five. Among this latter list might be included Wagner, Lajoie, Young, Anson, Plank, Brown, who, between thirty-five and forty, did some of their best work.

The Real Vets

Larry Lajoie came into baseball about four playing months before Hans Wagner started. The big Frenchman today is the game's champion yet. The rumor is again abroad that he has about completed his sojourn beneath the big tent, in which case the eminent Teton will come to the throne. After all, the entire German-French war isn't being waged on European soil. And even though both should last another year, they would still be back of strictly native talent against the record held by one Adair C. Anson, who struck around for more than twenty-two years before he refused to let baseball cut into his afternoons any longer.

Of all games, golf has the greatest range

John Hall won two championships twenty-four years apart—something that could never have happened in any other game. At the recent golf championship the youngest entry was fourteen—the oldest thirty-one—a gap of forty-seven years. Certainly no other game could produce any such broad range. This in one measure accounts for the popularity of golf. It is the one game of them all that a player can still hold after he has passed fifty, depending, as it does, more on muscular and mental control than upon physical strength.

The Swift Boys

Now some correspondent wants to know the name of the fastest runner in baseball. Cobb is the best base runner, but that doesn't necessarily mean he's the fastest man. In the American League St. Louis has two fast men in Bert Shotton and George Siler. But Fritz Maisel, who is a student of the running game, says that Frank Gilhooley can beat any man in baseball over a 100-yard dash. The certainty of the National League is Dave Robertson. Just how Robertson, Gilhooley, Shotton and Siler would finish in a 100-yard affair is something that no one knows, the test never having been made.

New Year's Resolutions

Those who are planning their New Year resolutions in advance and who have steeled their mentalities or such for a decided change from the older to produce an original mode of living for 1917. Briefly, those who have decided to adopt a new standard might well consider the following suggestions: 1. The Fan—to always in future say "aloha" as the home base runner slides safely back to first. 2. The Golfer—to explain in detail after a round just how he would have saved at least five strokes by mixing putts he could have kicked in "if he hadn't been careless." 3. The Boxer—to abandon the old system of modesty and demand a fair remuneration for his art. 4. Winter League Manager—to announce with boldness the great improvement in his club with the original declaration added "that the team that beats us out will finish up there at Chattanooga." 5. Football Coach—to abandon optimism and publicly proclaim the crippled

CITY TROOP POLOISTS TO PLAY IN MEXICO

Four Philadelphians Will Make Trip to General Pershing's Headquarters

CAMP STEWART, El Paso, Dec. 26.—Four Pennsylvania Guardsmen, members of the First City Troop, of Philadelphia, who have just won the regular army polo tournament here are to carry their game down to Colonia Dublin, Mexico. The extraordinary scheme, involving one of the most unusual competitions, in view of conditions, the sport world has ever known, follows a request by General Pershing, commander of the American punitive expedition in Mexico. The men selected to go are, H. Ingersoll, Wister Randolph, J. W. Converse and B. McFadden, who won the honors in the two weeks of games here against the Seventeenth and Eighteenth regulars, the Ohio team and freecoasters. The team, which may carry a few extra players, will be compelled to make a four hundred-mile motor trip to meet the Pershing regulars, a hundred miles to the base at Colonia, New Mexico, and a hundred south into Mexico. The First Cavalry has been ordered home and if the team is to meet Pershing's regulars without remaining behind the recalled regiment, the men must start this week for Pershing's base.

Loeb Gets Tennis Trophy

PINEHURST, N. C., Dec. 26.—In the St. Thomas tennis tournament at Pinehurst the club of the man's singles was played yesterday. Allan Loeb, of the Haystack Club, Chicago, won the singles trophy by defeating Gardner Colby, of the Orange Lawn Tennis Club, in three straight sets, 6-2, 6-7, 7-5.

Jumps 166 Feet on Skis

CARY, Ill., Dec. 26.—With a jump of 166 feet, Chris Jellum shattered the ski jump record in practical trials at Norris Ski Club, here. The official record is 145 feet.

PENN TEAM FEELS LIKE 'DAY-AFTER'

Xmas Dinner in Wilds of Kansas Knocks Out Carpenter and Others

HIT ALBUQUERQUE TODAY

By NEIL MATHEWS Captain of Penn Football Team EN ROUTE FROM DODGE CITY, KAN. TO ALBUQUERQUE, Dec. 26.—The day after Christmas is a typical "day after" for a few of us on the last leg of the long run to Pasadena, Cal., for the football game with the University of Oregon, New Year's Day. At that, only one of our Red and Blue warriors was laid low by one of the ugliest and most appreciated Christmas dinners. Joe Carpenter is down and out for the time being with the stomach ailment. He ate too much turkey, I fear, for his wife began to turn in and he lost the second dinner line-up, right after the turkey course. We kidded Joe quite a bit, but he was still an invalid this morning. The big dinner had the opposite effect on Lew Little. He put away his share in fine form, never miffing in the forward pass and tackling everything in the field. He today he said he was feeling much better than he was on Christmas Eve.

Urquhart's Foot Better

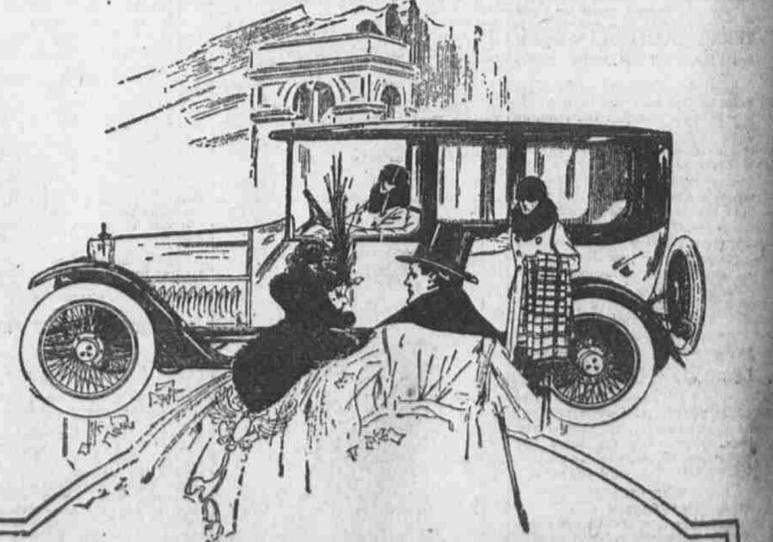
Clem Urquhart's infected foot almost ceased to bother him when the dinner bell rang, for he hobbled to the table without assistance and ate vigorously. His foot is still pretty bad, I am afraid, for he was able to put on his shoe again this morning. We didn't leave much of a forward pass dinner behind, for Dr. R. Tait McKeown, who has charge of the physical condition of our Penn team, told us to dig in and eat hearty. The fellows were pretty quiet most of the day yesterday. Most of us were snugly home-sick, and it didn't seem much like Christmas. The train stopped for fifteen minutes at Kansas City after we left Chicago, and the fellows all piled out to stretch their legs and work in a little exercise.

Passengers Look On

A bunch of the passengers of the Pullman cars piled out and looked at us as if we were a circus troop when we passed through the signals along the railroad tracks. Bob Polwell, the coach, felt good and puffed at us to show some pep. We were all yelling, too, and the crowd cheered us laughingly during the workout. We stopped here at Dodge City later in the day. A large package was at each of our places around the luncheon table. The gray ribbons and cards made it look like Christmas, especially when we tore them open and found a fine red-and-blue silk muffler, from Mr. and Mrs. Wray, for each of us. We gave them some lousy thanks. I tell you, and we made Mr. Wray give a speech. We have had snow nearly all the time, and the boys are getting sick of it. Reports come in that there isn't any snow at Albuquerque, and we are pretty keen about getting there, so we can get in a little practice.

DID YOU ENJOY YOURSELF XMAS?

Of course you did—how else could you? Better still is the new Winter hat and the new winter suit and the new winter boots. Billy Moran, 1103 Arch THE TAILOR Open Shop



OWEN MAGNETIC

Prices Advance January 1st. Material and labor costs have so steadily and materially increased that, though action has been deferred to safety's limit, we now find it imperative to announce an advance in prices January first, 1917. On that date the 125-inch wheel base will advance \$150.00 on all types. The 136-inch wheel base will advance \$200.00 on all types. In the meantime the prices will prevail as quoted below on all the new series of Owen Magnetic Cars. Greatly increased production makes it possible for us to promise this week a limited number of closed models for immediate delivery. And what Christmas remembrance could possibly surpass this car of distinction in appearance, operation and ownership? Limousine, Town Car and Landau models from \$4200 to \$5000—Touring Cars and Roadsters from \$3150 to \$3750—these prices to January 1st only. Built by the Baker Rauch & Lang Corporation and financially allied with the General Electric Company. Demonstration by appointment. Phone Spruce 2690. THE OWEN MAGNETIC CAR CO. OF PHILADELPHIA, INC. 1835 CHESTNUT ST. Service Station, 2039 Chestnut Street.